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by the Red Cross Institute for Crippled and Disabled Soldiers, and other activities in the matter of reconstruction.

Miss Caroline Webster presented a paper on

THE ORGANIZATION OF HOSPITAL LIBRARY  
SERVICE

(See p. 231)

Miss Miriam E. Carey, field representative in the hospital service, followed with a paper entitled

FROM CAMP TO CAMP: THE WORK OF A FIELD  
REPRESENTATIVE

(See p. 225)

The next paper was presented by Miss E. Kathleen Jones, librarian McLean Hospital, Waverley, Mass., who took for her subject

WHAT A BASE HOSPITAL LIBRARIAN SHOULD  
KNOW

(See p. 226)

The final paper on the program was that of Miss Blanche Galloway, librarian Pelham Bay (N. Y.) Naval Training Station, Miss Galloway's subject being

A WOMAN AMONG TEN THOUSAND BLUE-  
JACKETS

(See p. 223)

## LENDING DEPARTMENT ROUND TABLE

The Lending Department Round Table met July 3, with an attendance of about seventy-five. In the absence of Miss Jeanette M. Drake, Mr. Everett R. Perry read her paper, entitled-

ELIMINATION OF THE USE OF READERS' CARDS  
IN THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

(See p. 219)

An excerpt from a letter from Miss Miriam B. Wharton, librarian of the Burlington Free Public Library, to Miss Drake was presented, as follows:

I see by the announcements of the A. L. A. meeting that you are to talk on the "Elimination of the readers' card." I am so glad and hope your good words will lead others in the way. After your state meeting where your experiment was discussed, I came home and immediately tried it out: that was almost two years ago and we are still enthusiastic, and the public are so relieved. Cedar Rapids and Oskaloosa have since followed and are equally rejoiced with the change, so you cannot be too enthusiastic.

In the discussion these facts were brought out:

Redlands has followed suit in eliminating borrower's cards. Rochester tried dispensing with them at one of the sub-branches but had to go back to using the card. Wilmington has tried to shorten and simplify the process of charging and finds the Newark system the best. The

Sioux City way does not shorten the process nor lessen congestion at the charging desk.

Newark thinks it could be used in small libraries but it means increased waiting and work for the borrower. Mr. Dana furthermore said that for twenty-five years he had been trying to find a simpler method than the Newark and found that any means used for saving the library meant extra work for the patron.

The consensus of opinion was that the Sioux City system would not work or be feasible in a large library system.

The question box brought forth the following queries:

1. How have the libraries near the training camps for soldiers and sailors handled these men when they presented themselves as would-be patrons?

Omaha lost so many books, a deposit was required; this was not successful, as the men frequently were called away with so little notice they could not get the money refunded. Now books are sent to the camps and placed in charge of the Y. M. C. A.

Wilmington also makes deposits in the camp, the A. L. A. supplying the needed technical books. The question of fines has not arisen, as the soldiers return their books promptly. Omaha and Newark remit fines, Elizabeth treats the soldier as a regular patron except that the officer's signature takes the place of any other reference.

2. What can be done when books are kept until long overdue by members of the board of trustees of a library, after the usual post card notices have been sent?

The methods used were: Notify wife of the board member; use special card saying book is needed; send personal letter; telephone that book is urgently needed.

3. What is the general opinion in regard to charging books by date of issue instead of date due?

This was voted on and a large majority found in favor of the date due. Cleveland has used both and hopes never to return to the date of issue.

The chief opposition to using date due seems to be the chance of charging with the wrong stamp and the inability to fix responsibility. Pittsburgh reports no trouble of this sort. Each date has a different colored pencil—current date (discharging pencil) is brown; 7 day, black; 14 day, yellow; 28 day, green. Each assistant has a symbol—a check, a dash, etc.—which she makes when writing borrower's number, thus fixing responsibility absolutely.

Another library further differentiates by using different sized type for different dates.

4. Have any libraries instituted economies in the routine of the circulation department in the effort to release assistants for war work which might be of interest to this meeting?

Newark bought a nicer set of trays to save time; also recommends use of registration book in place of numerical file at central library. Mr. and Miss are now omitted from registration entries and borrower's card, while a dash (—) is used for Mrs.

Rochester multigraphs the bookslips of books of which there are many copies in use, which require frequent renewing.

Miss Waller I. Bullock, of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, was chosen chairman for the next meeting, and Miss Frances Dorrance, of Trenton, secretary.

AGNES F. P. GREER,

Secretary.

## PUBLIC DOCUMENTS ROUND TABLE

The meeting was called to order, July 5, by the chairman, Mr. George S. Godard, state librarian of Connecticut. Mr. Demarchus C. Brown, state librarian of Indiana, acting as secretary.

The chairman briefly outlined the present status of the printing bill before Congress. He stated that the outlook was somewhat discouraging and that no action could be expected during the present War Congress, when more important world problems were at stake. He called attention to House Resolution 11521, which is a new printing bill introduced by Mr. Barnhart on April 18, 1918, and referred to the Committee on Printing, having been ordered printed. Up to the present time the chairman has heard of no report having been made on the same by the committee.

The bill is entitled, "A bill to amend and revise the laws relating to printing and binding and the distribution of publications for Congress." In brief it abolishes

all the official gazette and geological survey libraries and rewrites the sections relative to valuation distribution. It places in the hands of the Joint Committee on Printing the responsibility of determining much of the detail relative to publication, binding and distribution included in the former printing bills. Thus, Section 18, paragraphs 1 and 2, read as follows:

Sec. 18, Par. 1. The Joint Committee on Printing shall have power to adopt and employ such measures as, in its discretion, may be deemed necessary to remedy any neglect, delay, duplication, or waste in the public printing and binding and the distribution of Government publications, and shall exercise general supervision over printing and binding for Congress.

Sec. 18, Par. 2. The Joint Committee on Printing is hereby authorized to inquire at any time into all matters pertaining to the public printing and binding and the distribution of publications for Congress, the judiciary, and the various executive departments, independent offices, and establishments of the Government, to report to Congress from time to time any abuses in